Welcome to the new INL

By
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On behalf of our more than 3,000 scientists, engineers, technicians and support personnel, it is my distinct pleasure to welcome you to the new Idaho National Laboratory. We're engaged in the ambitious and tremendously important task of leading an international nuclear renaissance. And we all firmly believe this is the right place for that rebirth to occur.

This is, after all, the place where usable amounts of electricity were first generated from nuclear power. It's where nuclear-generated electricity first powered an American community. It's where propulsion systems for the Navy's nuclear-powered surface ships and submarines were developed and where sailors and officers were trained on how to operate them. And it's where scores of this country's best and brightest came to carry out President Eisenhower's vision of Atoms for Peace.

Clearly, we have the heritage. Just as importantly, we have the human and physical resources today to move on to even greater accomplishments in nuclear-enabled energy security. We've developed the guiding roadmaps to chart the course to the next generation of nuclear power systems. We're leading initiatives to develop specific Generation-IV reactor technologies, advanced fuel cycles, space nuclear power systems and approaches to more efficiently produce hydrogen. We're also home to one of the world's premier materials test reactors – the Advanced Test Reactor, as well as the Safety and Tritium Applied Research national user facility for fusion studies, and the new Space and Security Power Systems Facility. **(Over)**

Beyond this leadership role in nuclear energy, we're also working to a strategy that commits us to make important contributions in the area of national and homeland security – leveraging our unique Critical Infrastructure Test Range. The test range, complete with full-scale, functioning infrastructure systems for the electric power grid, wireless communications, and others has become a leading center for the protection of the nation's critical infrastructures. The test range also allows for testing and development of unmanned aerial vehicles, trace explosives detection and testing, and lightweight armor development and testing.

In the broad areas of energy security and science, we're addressing the challenge of energy production by continuing to grow our contributions in technology development for fossil fuels, geothermal, bioenergy and other renewable energy sources. In the long term, hydrogen production, delivery and use will be of special importance, the principal aim being to revolutionize transportation systems. We will continue to work toward increasing the balance, diversity, efficiency and affordability of domestic energy sources to avoid the issues and costs of overdependence on imported energy sources.

Within the next five years, we will develop and implement plans for each distinctive scientific signature that will guide the future growth of INL's science base. The signature areas are advanced materials and nuclear fuels; theory, modeling and simulation; separations and actinide science; microbiological and geological systems science; and instrumentation, control and intelligent systems.

To energize this national priority research and development portfolio, we at INL are committed to extensively collaborating with regional, national and international leaders in academia, industry and government. A major goal of such partnerships is the revitalization of nuclear science and engineering education. And we're solidly on the path toward the forefront research facilities, support infrastructure and management systems required to assure success.

As you'll see when you take a closer look at us by examining the accompanying written materials, touring our facilities and working with us, this is a lab on the move. We have the proud heritage, compelling portfolio, unique assets, disciplined business strategy and the personal commitment of each and every member of the INL team to ensure fulfillment of our assigned role of enhancing our nation's energy security.